TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WEST RALEIGH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By

Raleigh, N. C. West Raleigh
Presbyterian Church

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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WEST RALEIGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY FOURTH THROUGH MAY EIGHTH
ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND
FIFTY-TWO, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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MORNING WORSHIP

ELEVEN O'CLOCK. MAY 4, 1952

Prelude—"Arioso" ..... BACH-ENGEL

Call to Worship

Doxology

People's Invocation ..... *(Front Cover of Hymnal)*

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Hymn 6—"*Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven*"
REGENT SQUARE

Responsive Reading ..... *Selection 4, Psalm 18:25-35*

Scripture Lesson ..... *Acts 1:1-11*

Quiet Music for Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn 407—"*Heralds of Christ Who Bear The King's Command*" ..... NATIONAL HYMN

Offering—"*Air*" ..... HANDEL

Offertory Anthem—"*The Lord's Prayer*" .... LEROY ROBERTSON

Prayer of Dedication

Sermon—"*The Marching Orders For The Church*"
REV. E. J. AGSTEN, PASTOR

Prayer

Hymn 301—"*Lead On, O King Eternal*" ..... LANCASHIRE

Benediction

Congregational Response

Postlude—"Grand Chorus" ..... DIGGLE

SUNDAY—May 4

8:00 P.M.

Prelude—"*Vision*" . . . . . RHEINBERGER

Call to Worship

The Gloria

Invocation

Hymn 257—"*Sun of My Soul, Thou Saviour Dear*" . . . HURSLEY

Responsive Reading . . . . . *Selection 8, Psalm 32*

The Reading of the Scriptures . . . . . *Proverbs 9:1-11*

Evening Prayer

Hymn 253—"*O Jesus, I Have Promised*" . . . . . ANGEL'S STORY

Offertory

Offertory Anthem—"*There Is a Balm In Gilead*"
WILLIAM DAWSON
MARY DAVIS, *Soprano*

Prayer of Dedication

Sermon—"*The Threshold of Learning*"
DR. FRANK B. LEWIS,
President, Mary Baldwin College

Prayer

Hymn 224—"*More Love To Thee, O Christ*"

Benediction

Postlude—"*Grand Processional*" . . . . . BRAHMS

MONDAY—May 5

8:00 P.M.

Prelude—"*These Are They Which Came*" from "*The Holy City*" . . . . . GAUL

Call to Worship

The Gloria

Invocation

Hymn 463—"*Day Is Dying In the West*" . . . . . CHAUTAUQUA

Responsive Reading . . . . . *Selection 12, Psalm 42*

The Reading of the Scriptures . . . . . *Hebrews 11:32-40*

Hymn 170—"*O Jesus, Thou Art Standing*" . . . . . ST. HILDA

Evening Prayer

The Anthem—"*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*" . . . . . BACH

Sermon—"*Amid The Witnesses*" . . . . REV. A. G. COURTENAY, *Associate Pastor*

Prayer

Hymn 313—"*So Let Our Lips And Lives Express*" . . . . HEBRON

Benediction

Postlude—"*Festlied*" . . . . . MAYER

TUESDAY—May 6

8:00 P.M.

Prelude—"*Faith*" . . . . . MENDELSSOHN

Call to Worship

The Gloria

Invocation

Hymn 467—"*Now The Day Is Over*" . . . . . MERRIAL

Responsive Reading . . . . . *Selection 20, Psalm 84*

The Reading of the Scriptures . . . . . *Exodus 3: 1-8a*

Hymn 345—"*The Church's One Foundation*" . . . . . AURELIA

Evening Prayer

The Anthem—"*Thee With Tender Care*" . . . . . BACH

Sermon—"*The Indestructible Church*" . . DR. JAMES SPRUNT,
Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, N. C.

Prayer

Hymn 353—"*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*" . . . . . ST. THOMAS

Benediction

Postlude—"*Allegro Maestoso*" . . . . . DUBOIS

WEDNESDAY—May 7

8:00 P.M.

Prelude—"*Agnus Dei*" . . . . . Bizet

Call to Worship

The Gloria

Invocation

Hymn 458—"*Softly Now The Light of Day*" . . . . . Seymour

Responsive Reading . . . . . *Selection 50, I Corinthians 13*

Anthem—"*God That Madest Earth And Heaven*" . . . . Manney
(By the Youth Choir)

The Reading of the Scriptures . . . . . Matthew *9:1-13*

Hymn 84—"*Immortal Love, Forever Full*" . . . . . Serenity

Evening Prayer

Anthem—"*The Lord Is A Mighty God*" . . . . . Mendelssohn

Sermon—"*The Experience of Forgiveness*" . . . . Dr. John H. Grey, Jr., *Minister, Williamsburg, Virginia Presbyterian Church*

Prayer

Hymn 250—"*Draw Thou My Soul, O Christ*" . . . . St. Edmund

Benediction

Postlude—"*Piece Jubilante*" . . . . . Martin

THURSDAY—May 8

8:00 P.M.

Prelude—"*Jesus Shall Reign*" . . . . . *Arranged by* MATTHEWS

Call to Worship

The Gloria

Invocation

Hymn 25—"*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*" . . . HYMN TO JOY

Responsive Reading . . . . . *Selection 52, Hebrews 11:1-6; 32-40*

The Reading of the Scriptures . . . . . *Philippians 3:1-14*

Hymn 88—"*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*" . . HAMBURG

Evening Prayer

The Anthem—"*Hallelujah Amen*" From "*Judas Maccabaeus*"
HANDEL

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Sermon—"*The Crowd, The Cross and The Christian*" . . . . By THE REVEREND JOSEPH WALKER, *Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Indiana*

Anniversary Prayer

Hymn 19—"*Our God, Our Help In Ages Past*" . . . . . ST. ANNE

Benediction

Postlude—"*Praise Ye The Father*" . . . . . GOUNOD

*History of West Raleigh Presbyterian Church 1927-1952

The growth of the student body at North Carolina State College to 1,500 in 1926 showed the need for the establishment of churches nearer the College campus than those in downtown Raleigh. The Baptists first met the need when Pullen Memorial Church was built and in 1927 the Presbyterians, under the leadership of Dr. T. P. Harrison, Head of the English Department at N. C. State College, took the necessary steps to organize a Presbyterian church.

The plan was to establish a church that would meet the needs of the rapidly growing residential areas of Cameron Park and Fairmont and serve as a church home to the Presbyterian students at State College. The idea was to have a community church such as the students would have in their home churches.

When the plan for a Presbyterian church in this area was approached, it was first suggested that a church be established as a branch of the First Church. This did not prove feasible since the type of pastor needed for the work would not be willing to serve as an assistant pastor to the First Church. It was deemed wise to establish a separate church.

A survey showed that there were forty members in the faculty, the Experiment Stations, and Extension work at State College who were Presbyterians, with two hundred fifteen Presbyterian students.

The Education Committee of the Synod of North Carolina was much interested in the plan for organizing the Church, and Dr. W. McC. White urged that the Church be established. The College offered the use of Pullen Hall until a building could be erected.

A meeting of interested individuals was called at Pullen Hall, State College for Sunday, February 27, 1927 at 4:30 p.m. to confer on the advisability of establishing a Presbyterian Church in West Raleigh. An organization committee was appointed consisting of the following men: E. L. Cloyd, T. P. Harrison, T. R. Hart, Frank Nash, F. M. Register, G. R. Shelton, N. L. Walker, and T. L Wilson. This com-

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* The source for the history from 1927-1945 is the manuscript of the history written by Dr. T. P. Harrison covering these years.

mittee was instructed to petition Granville Presbytery to authorize the organization of a Presbyterian Church in West Raleigh.

On Sunday evening, March 12, 1927, Dr. Benjamin R. Lacy, Jr. preached to an interested congregation on the organization of the new Church. Encouragement was also received from the Education Committee of the General Assembly. Because of the fact that the students at State College came from all over North Carolina, it was felt that the building of a church would be a State project.

On May 6 the organization committee issued a call stating that "The organization of the Presbyterian Church in West Raleigh will be made in accordance with the action of Granville Presbytery, at 8:00 o'clock on Sunday evening, May 8, in the auditorium of State College Y.M.C.A.," and urging "all petitioners and others expecting to unite with the Church to be present. Others are cordially invited to attend."

The Commission from Granville Presbytery who met with the prospective congregation were: The Reverends W. McC. White, T. H. Dimmock, J. H. Gruver and Elders J. M. Baird, T. M. Atkins, and K. G. Hudson. Fifty-six members were transferred, fifty-three from the First Presbyterian Church and three from other Pesbyterian Churches.

The following officers were elected: Elders: Frank Nash and T. P. Harrison—both, having been previously ordained, were installed. Deacons: G. R. Shelton, E. L. Cloyd and A. S. Brower. Mr. Brower was installed and Messrs. Cloyd and Shelton ordained and installed. Without formal action the church came to be called the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.

At a congregational meeting on May 29, additional officers were elected. J. A. Arey, A. Y. Kelly, E. L. Cloyd and E. S. King were chosen as elders. Mr. Arey was not present because of illness, and by his own desire has never qualified. Mr. King at a later date resigned as an elder. He had been reared as a member of the Friends Church and did not feel that he was in full agreement with some of the Presbyterian doctrines. The following men were chosen as deacons: H. C. Evans, J. O. Halverson, L. H. Harris, F. M. Register, R. J. Saville, Ross Shumaker, Harry Tucker, and J. Clay Williams.

A call was issued on June 26, 1927 to the Reverend Joseph Rogers Walker of Sweet Hall, Va. Mr. Walker accepted the call and became the first pastor on September 1, 1927. He was installed on Sunday, November 6, 1927.

Six lots in Fairmont were presented to the church by the Hudson brothers and the Hudson-Belk Company. However, the congregation decided later that the church should be nearer Hillsboro Street and purchased lots on the corner of Horne and Vanderbilt, the location of the present church.

Financial aid for carrying on the work with students was given by the Education Committee of the General Assembly.

Plans were set up for raising money from the Presbyterians over the State and solicitations were begun with Synod's approval. When things looked hopeful for the early construction of a building, the stock market crash of 1929 set off the "Depression of 1930-33," and the congregation was plunged into a series of losses that came near to ending the entire project. The bank failures in town involved practically all of the members, salaries were cut, some of the funds raised for the new church were lost, and appropriations from Synod and the General Assembly were reduced. In January 1932 a congregational meeting was held to explore the possibilities before the congregation. No definite action was taken, but a committee was appointed to see if a minimum budget of $2,000.00 could be raised by the members. On February 28 a report was made that $1,955.00 had been pledged. The congregation then voted to go ahead with plans for a temporary church building to be erected as soon as funds were in hand. Some funds had been secured before the financial crash and enough was added to this to build the small brown church which has served the congregation for the past twenty years. This building was formally opened on September 25, 1932 with the sermon being preached by Dr. Benjamin R. Lacy, Jr.

During this very difficult period the Reverend Joseph R. Walker worked with unflagging zeal. He served the congregation from 1927 to 1935, and it was due to his efforts that the new church was built and paid for during this period of depression. There were times when the payment of his small salary was in arrears, but he held on.

In 1933 Rev. Mr. Walker was married to Miss Mary Austin Mann of Richmond, Va.

The First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Kentucky, issued a call to Rev. Mr. Walker and he accepted this, resigning his pastorate with the West Raleigh Church in October 1934. During his ministry the church membership had increased to 125 and the new building had given a feeling that the organization was on a permanent basis.

At the congregational meeting when his resignation was accepted, the following valuation was put on his work:

1. He made the Synod of North Carolina conscious of its duty to State College and the University.

2. He gave unsparingly of his time, his physical strength, his ability in his effort to obtain from Presbyterians of the State financial aid toward the erection of an appropriate church building.

3. He laid the foundation for this Church with a double purpose: to minister to college students and to serve the community.

The Reverend John Hugh Grey, Jr., son of the Reverend John Hugh Grey, D.D., of Bedford, Virginia, Student pastor in Lexington, Virginia, for Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute, was called on December 16, 1934 to serve the West Raleigh Church. The condition of the Church was much improved and it grew rapidly during Mr. Grey's pastorate. The residential area of West Raleigh had greatly expanded and the small church was soon overcrowded. In 1936 it was necessary to enlarge the building in order to have more classrooms for the Church School.

Mr. Grey's experience in student work in Lexington was of great help in building up the work with State College and Meredith students. Due to the increases in the congregation and the student work, a student assistant was employed to help carry on this work. Later on two assistants were used, and these boys made a great contribution to the work of the Church.

In 1937 Mr. Grey was granted leave of absence for several months to complete the work for his doctorate at the University of Edinburgh.

A beautiful manse was erected by the congregation in 1940. This was just before the beginning of the inflation and this building was secured for a comparatively low cost. Also, the church building was again enlarged in 1943 at a cost of $6,600.00.

In 1942 Dr. Grey had a serious automobile accident and he was unable to preach for approximately six months. During this time Mr. Ray Holder, a divinity student at Duke University, preached for him.

A fund-raising campaign was conducted in 1944 to secure funds for a building when conditions would be possible to build; $20,000.00 was raised to be used as a nucleus for the money needed for the permanent church.

Dr. Grey felt that this was a logical time to make a change in pastorates if he were to do so in the near future, and, in May 1944, he accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Va.

For the next year the Church was without a regular pastor. The congregation was most fortunate in securing as stated supply, the Reverend Frank Bell Lewis (now President of Mary Baldwin College), of Elkins, W. Va., who was on leave of absence to complete the work for his doctorate at Duke University. Mr. Lewis had studied at the University of Edinburgh but his studies had been interrupted by World War II; he had come to Duke to complete his work.

In the spring of 1945 a call was extended to the Reverend Edward J. Agsten of Ronceverte, W. Va. He accepted and began his pastorate June 1, 1945.

A sad event of this same year was that Dr. T. P. Harrison was unable to return to Raleigh after spending the summer at his cottage near Cashiers, N. C. He remained in Asheville with his daughter where he continued to live until his death on November 1, 1949. To him, more than to any other individual was due the credit for the organization of the West Raleigh Church.

The work of the Church had grown so much that a Director of Religious Education and an Associate Pastor were added in 1946. Miss Gladys Jackson, Director of Religious Education, accepted work in September 1946, and shortly after that the Reverend Arthur G. Courtenay, formerly an army chaplain, became the Associate Pastor to work with students. The addition of these two workers helped greatly with the work with the young people and children's groups in the Church.

Miss Jackson served until January 1949 when she resigned to become Director of the Pioneer Youth Division of the Religious Education Committee in Richmond, Va. One of the members of the Church, Doris Turner, served until she entered the Assembly Training School in September 1949. Miss Miriam Bowditch, who had been Director of Religious Education in Kannapolis, N. C., accepted work in the fall of 1949 and has done excellent work with the children and youth departments.

An Outpost Sunday School was organized on the Western Boulevard in November, 1947. Miss Rosana Barnes, S. S. Extension Worker for the Synod of North Carolina, assisted with establishing this outpost. The work then grew rapidly and the Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church was organized on the first Sunday in April, 1949.

When World War II was over, the plans for a permanent church were again a pressing matter. The question arose as to which unit should be erected, the Sanctuary or the Education building. After much

consideration, it was decided that the old church structure would be moved as far to the south and west of the lot as possible and a sanctuary erected on the northeast corner of the lot.

The next problem was getting the additional money needed for the erection of a church. Fifty thousand dollars had been accumulated and a Fund Raising Campaign was put on in December 1949 to secure an additional $50,000.00. The Fund Raising company of Marts and Lundy was employed and Mr. Lewis C. Bradshaw was the representative who directed the drive. The money was pledged and plans made for building. Then the Korean War delayed the securing of steel. In the meantime inflation raised the cost of materials and it was necessary for the congregation to authorize additional expenditures. The Building Committee was authorized to spend $185,000, $75,000 of this to be secured from a loan.

The new building is a modified English Gothic brick structure. It was completed in March, 1952 and the Consecration Service was held on March 16.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Church will be celebrated the week of May 4-8. For this Anniversary the former pastors are expected to return. On Sunday morning, May 4, Mr. Agsten will preach and on Sunday evening Dr. Frank Bell Lewis; on Monday evening, the Reverend Arthur G. Courtenay; on Tuesday evening, Dr. James Sprunt; on Wednesday evening, Dr. John H. Grey; and on Thursday evening, Dr. Joseph R. Walker.

This Historical Sketch prepared by Miss Edith Gilbert.

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Raleigh

CHARTER MEMBERS

The following are the names of the charter members in the same order and exactly as they were signed on the petition for the organization of the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church. While fifty-three members of the First Presbyterian Church signed, there were eleven in addition, whose names appear on the petition which went to Presbytery on March 15, 1927, making a total of sixty-four charter members. The date of organization was May 7, 1927.

Frank Nash
N. S. Nash
A. Y. Kelly
M. F. Kelly
Forrest Kelly
G. R. Shelton
Eva A. Shelton
H. C. Evans
Rhylma G. Evans
H. G. Hunt
Maude F. Hunt
Clara L. Gilbert
Edith F. Gilbert
Kathleen W. Carlton
A. S. Brower
Kathleen M. Brower
Mrs. W. G. Mathews
C. W. Mathews
E. W. Mathews
Blanna Mathews
Katherine E. Mathews

F. M. Register
Mabelle D. Register
Burton S. Sellers
Alfred M. Scales
Thos. L. Wilson
Louis H. Harris
W. C. Crane
Catherine C. Crane
Margaret B. Poole
Robert Franklin Poole
Anna Wheeler Cox
Harry Tucker
Clara S. Houston
Anne Eliz. Houston
Elizabeth Sawyer
Minnie B. Farrior
J. O. Halverson
Emma C. Halverson
Thos. P. Harrison
J. Clay Williams
Sara McD. Williams
J. Clay Williams, Jr.

Nicholas Lewis Walker
Elsie Mims Walker
Lewis Walker
William Walker
J. A. Arey
Annie Terry Arey
Bertha Daniel Cloyd
E. L. Cloyd
C. H. Brannon
Mary Cloud Brannon
Margaret M. Gunter
T. R. Hart
R. J. Harris
Marguerite R. Saville
R. J. Saville
Virginia Anderson
David S. Cox, Jr.
Eunice Baldwin King
Edward S. King
Mozelle W. Shumaker
Ross E. Shumaker

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West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.
Twenty-fifth anniversary, West Raleigh P

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